

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~Communication~~ A communication method according to Claim 6, for communicating on a network that includes communication devices, which perform communication in a connected mode or a non-connected mode, said method comprising:

for at least one of the communication devices which is to effect a transmission in the connected mode, an information operation during which the communication device broadcasts, on the network, an item of information representing a passband necessary for the transmission in the connected mode;

a passband allocation operation of allocating the passband for connected-mode transmissions based on the item of information, wherein the passband allocation operation is performed in coordination with all communication devices using the information operation;

a second allocation operation of allocating for non-connected-mode transmissions all or part of the passband not allocated for the connected-mode transmissions, for each communication device that is to effect a transmission in the non-connected mode, wherein the second allocation operation is performed independently from other communication devices in the network; and

an adjustment of adjusting the allocated passband to avoid congestion on the network,

and further comprising an information transmission operation that takes several priority levels into account,

wherein, during the passband allocation operation, a passband associated with a priority level corresponding to the non-connected mode varies as a function of a period, which did not give rise to any transmission.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~Communication~~ A communication method according to Claim 8, wherein the period is a period separating a last transmission in the non-connected mode and a next transmission in the connected mode.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~Communication~~ A communication method according to ~~Claim 6~~, for communicating on a network that includes communication devices, which perform communication in a connected mode or a non-connected mode, said method comprising:

for at least one of the communication devices which is to effect a transmission in the connected mode, an information operation during which the communication devices broadcasts, on the network, an item of information representing a passband necessary for the transmission in the connected mode;

a passband allocation operation of allocating the passband for connected-mode transmissions based on the item of information, wherein the passband allocation operation is performed in coordination with all communication devices using the information operation;

a second allocation operation of allocating for non-connected-mode transmissions all or part of the passband not allocated for the connected-mode transmissions, for each communication device that is to effect a transmission in the non-connected mode, wherein the second allocation operation is performed independently from other communication devices in the network; and

an adjustment operation of adjusting the allocated passband to avoid congestion on the network,

and further comprising an information transmission operation that takes several priority levels into account,

wherein, during the passband allocation operation, a passband associated with a priority level corresponding to the non-connected mode varies as a function of a number of packets not transmitted during a predetermined period.

Claims 11- 244 (canceled).

Claims 245 (new): A communication device which performs communication in a connected mode or a non-connected mode, said device comprising:

information means, adapted to send an item of information representing a passband necessary for the transmission in the connected mode on the network;

passband allocation means adapted to allocate the passband necessary for the transmission in the connected mode, wherein said passband allocation means is adapted to allocate all or part of the passband not allocated for the connected mode to a transmission in the non-connected mode, independently from other communication devices;

adjusting means to adjust the allocated passband to avoid congestion on the network; and

information transmission means adapted to take into account several priority levels,

wherein said passband allocation means is adapted to vary passband associated with a priority level corresponding to the non-connected mode according to a period, which has not given rise to any transmission.

Claim 246 (new): A communication device according to claim 245, wherein said passband allocation means is adapted so that the period is a period separating a last transmission in the non-connected mode and a next transmission in the connected mode.

Claim 247 (new): A communication device which performs communication in a connected mode or a non-connected mode, said device comprising:

information means, adapted to send an item of information representing a passband necessary for the transmission in the connected mode on a network;

passband allocation means adapted to allocate the passband necessary for the transmission in the connected mode, wherein said passband allocation means is adapted to allocate all or part of the passband not allocated for the connected mode to a transmission in the non-connected mode, independently from other communication devices;

adjusting means adapted to adjust the allocated passband to avoid congestion on the network; and

information transmission means adapted to take into account several priority levels,

wherein said passband allocation means is adapted to vary passband associated with a priority level corresponding to the non-connected mode according to a number of packets not transmitted during a predetermined period.